

A clean environment is important to all of us!

NOT connected to sanitary sewer systems and treatment plants? The primary purpose of storm drains is to carry rainwater away from developed areas to prevent flooding. Untreated storm water and the pollutants it carries flow directly into creeks, lagoons and the ocean.

In recent years, sources of water pollution like industrial waters from factories have been greatly reduced. However, now the majority of water pollution occurs from things like cars leaking oil, fertilizers from farms and gardens, failing septic tanks, pet waste and residential car washing into the storm drains and into the ocean and waterways.

All these sources add up to a pollution problem! But each of us can do our part to help clean up our water and that adds up to a pollution solution!



Car washing photo is used courtesy of the Water Quality Consortium, a cooperative venture between the Washington State Department of Ecology, King County and the cities of Bellevue, Seattle and Tacoma.

City of Carlsbad
1635 Faraday Avenue
Carlsbad CA 92008

Storm Water HOTline:
760-602-2799

City of Carlsbad
Storm Water Protection
Program



Car Washing

Only Rain in the Storm Drain!



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Storm Water Protection
Program

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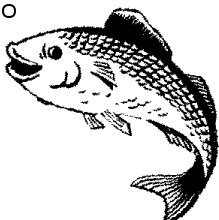
What's wrong with car washing?

There's no problem with washing your car. It's just how and where you do it.

Most soap contains phosphates and other chemicals that harm fish and water quality. The soap, together with the dirt, metal and oil washed from your car, flows into nearby storm drains which run directly into lakes, rivers or marine waters.

The phosphates from the soap can cause excess algae to grow. Algae look bad, smell bad, and harm water quality. As algae decay, the process uses up oxygen in the water that fish need.

"Fish don't like to swim in soap!"



How can YOU help keep the environment clean?

Having a clean environment is of primary importance for our health and economy. Clean waterways provide commercial opportunities, recreation, fish habitat and add beauty to our landscape. YOU can help keep our ocean, creeks and lagoons clean by applying the following tips:

- Use soap sparingly.
- Use a hose nozzle with a trigger to save water.
- Pour your bucket of soapy water down the sink when you're done, not in the street.
- Avoid using engine and wheel cleaners or degreasers.
- Take your car to a commercial car wash, especially if you plan to clean



the engine or the bottom of your car. Most car washes reuse wash water several times before sending it to the sewer system for treatment.

- Hire only mobile detail operators that will capture wash water and chemicals. It is unlawful for commercial vehicle washing operators to allow wash water to enter the storm drain system.